

**Testimony of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association (CATA) in support of Raised House Bill 5291: "AAC Access to Information Regarding the Safety of Sports Helmets"**

March 14, 2018

Representative Steinberg, Senator Gerratana, Senator Sommers and honorable members of the Public Health Committee, this testimony is on behalf of the Connecticut Athletic Trainers' Association in support of the concept of Raised House Bill 5291, "AAC Access to Information Regarding the Safety of Sports Helmets."

The CATA has supported legislation regarding health and safety in sport through the years, and we acknowledge the need to continue to update the current Connecticut statute to address the safety of athletes. We particularly appreciate the attention paid to the issue by the Committee on General Law.

Consumers are entitled to all safety information as it relates to sport helmets. This bill would provide consumers the safety index value for individual sport helmets by manufacturers based on the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment performance standards. This organization is recognized nationally as the primary evaluator of the quality and safety of protective helmets in sports. With the greater understanding of injuries in sports, it is imperative that the public has this information available to ensure that the protective sports equipment selected meets the recognized standards that this organization offers. The enactment of HB 5291 will give these parents information at a single site permitting them to make an educated decision on behalf of their children.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on Raised House Bill 5291.

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